

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4264

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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USCINCLANT

USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: C/A

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI PFOR SREF EFIN EINV

SUBJECT: ROUNDUP ANGOLA OCTOBER 7, 1975

1. GOVERNMENT LUANDA PRESS REPORTS AT PORTUGUESE HIGH COMM-
ISSONER, ADMIRAL CARDOSO, HAS EXPLAINED THAT THE RECENT
APPOINTMENT HAS MINISTERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO OF THE MEMBERS OF
THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL WAS NOT THE CREATION OF A " NEW
GOVERNMENT" NOR ANY ALTERATION OF THE SUSPENDED STATUS OF THE
ALVOR ACCORD. HOWEVER, IT HAS THE PRACTICAL EFFECT AT THIS TIME
HE SAID, OF REGULARIZING THE STATUS AND LEGAL POSITION OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL MEMBERS, WHOSE JOBS WERE SUSPENDED WHEN THE
ALVOR AGREEMENT WAS SUSPENDED. AT THE MOMENT, ONLY LOPO DE
NASCIMENTO (MPLA) IS IN LUANDA, BUT THE OTHER TWO MEMBERS WILL
HAVE THE SAME STATUS WHENEVER THEY WISH TO TAKE UP THEIR DUTIES.

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2. MILITARY ASSISTANCE: ADMIRAL CARDOSO ALSO COMMENTED ON

FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT BY PORTUGUESE IN ANGOLA. HE SAID THAT ANY MATERIAL PROVIDED WOULD NOT BE FOR ANY SPECIFIC LIBERATION MOVEMENT, BUT ONLY FOR ANGOLAN ARMY WHICH WOULD COME INTO BEING ON INDEPENDENCE DAY. HE FURTHER COMMENTED THAT ELEMENTS OF THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES WHICH WOULD REMAIN AFTER INDEPENDENCE DAY WOULD INCLUDE NAVAL PERSONNEL WHICH WOULD BE SECONDED TO THE DIRECTORATE OF NAVAL SERVICES; AIR FORCE PERSONNEL WHICH WOULD BE SECONDED TO THE CIVIL AERONAUTIC DIRECTORATE AND SOME ARMY PERSONNEL WHICH WOULD BE SECONDED TO THE HIGHWAY BOARD AND OTHER SUCH GROUPS. OFFICIALLY, THE ADMIRAL CONCLUDED, HE COULD NOT PROVIDE MATERIAL TO POLITICAL MOVEMENTS BUT ONLY TO OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

3. LAST DAYS OF NOVA LISBOA : AN AP STRINGER, RICHARD TOMKINS, TOLD A CONGEN OFF ON OCTOBER 6 THAT ON OCTOBER 4 HE SAW SAVIMBI IN NOVA LISBOA AND THAT SAVIMBI TOLD HIM THAT THE THREE COMPETING LIBERATION GROUPS WOULD HAVE TO WORK OUT THEIR CONFLICTS BETWEEN AND AMONG THEMSELVES AND WITH THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES. SAVIMBI FELT, SOURCE STATED, THAT A CONTINUING MILITARY STRUGGLE WOULD ENSUE. HOWEVER, IF CONTINUED SUFFERING OCCURS ON A BROAD SCALE NO DOUBT IT WOULD COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE UN WHICH WOULD TAKE AN INTEREST IN THE RESOLUTION OF THE MATTER. COMMENT: SAVIMBI SEEMS TO HAVE MORE RELIANCE ON THE UN THAN DOES THE MPLA, PERHAPS BECAUSE HE IS IN A WEAKER POSITION. TOMKINS DEPARTED NOVA LISBOA ON THE LAST FLIGHT TO LUANDA AND NOT LONG THEREAFTER, THE REMAINING PORTUGUESE MILITARY PERSONNEL ALSO FLEW OUT. THEY WERE WAITING HE SAID, FOR THE UN HIGH COMMISSON'S CHARTERED PAN AM 707, TO LEAVE WITH THE LAST GROUP OF CAPE VERDEAN REFUGEES.) WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY TOOK OUT THEIR LIGHT ARMS BUT LEFT CONSIDERABLE MILITARY EQUIPMENT BEHIND, REPORTEDLY DIVIDED AT TWO DEPOTS. THEY PERMITTED FIVE OF EACH OF THE TWO COMPETING LIBERATION GROUPS (UNITA AND FNLA) TO STAND BY THE MATERIAL AND TO LET THEM WORRY ABOUT THEIR DISTRIBUTION AFTER THE TROOPS DEPARTED LATE ON THE 4TH.

4. BANKING AND FINANCE THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING RECENTLY ISSUED NEW RULES CONCERNING THE BANKING FIELD IN ANGOLA IN PROVIDING THE RATHER ELABORATE AND CONSERVATIVE RULES ON INTEREST, WITHDRAWAL AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS, THE MINISTRY EMPHAS- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IZED IN ITS IMPLEMENTING COMMUNIQUE THAT THERE WAS NO - RPT - NO TRUTH THAT THE BANKS OF ANGOLA HAD BEEN NATIONALIZED, BUT ONLY TEMPORARY AND ESSENTIAL MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO LIMIT CONFUSION AND TO PREVENT CHAOS. THE MINISTRY ALSO STATED THAT IT WAS NOT - RPT NOT- TRUE THAT BANK DEPOSITS OF RESIDENT OR NON-RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATED. THE HIGH COMMISSONER AND THE GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE THE COMMUNIQUE CONTINUED , THE BENEFITS OF DEPOSITS IN BANKING INSTITUTIONS IN ANGOLA BOTH TO RESIDENT AND NON-

RESIDENT DEPOSITORS. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO STATED THAT IT WAS NOT RPT NOT - TRUE THAT THE BANK OF ANGOLA IN LISBON WAS EXCHANGING ON PAR BASIS ANY AND ALL ANGOLAN ESCUDOS FOR PORTUGUESE ESCUDOS.

COMMENT: THESE EFFORTS AT CALMING THE PUBLIC CONCERNING THE FUTURE VALUE OF DEPOSITS IN ANGOLA WILL PROBABLY HAVE LITTLE EFFECT PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL CHAOS IN THE SHORT TERM IN ANGOLA, BUT MORE IMPORTANT, BECAUSE OF THE LONG TERM LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE ECONOMIC POSTURE OF A "NEW ANGOLA" MANY NO DOUBT FEEL THAT THESE SOOTHING STATEMENTS AND ORDERLY INTEREST AND WITHDRAWAL FORMULA WILL BE OF LIMITED LONGEVITY AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

5. THE SCENE IN LUANDA: WITH 33 DAYS TO GO BEFORE INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA, THE CAPITAL CITY REMAINS MUCH AS OUTLINED IN LUANDA 1473 (PREPARED SEPTEMBER 29) JUST A BIT MORE SO. TO UPDATE THAT REPORT: ONE NOW CAN OCCASIONALLY HEAR ONCE AGAIN THE CRUMP OF ARTILLERY IN THE DISTANCE AT NIGHT. THE CITY HAS CHANGED BY THE INCREASED PRESENCE OF REFUGEES FROM THE SOUTHWEST OF ANGOLA DELIVERED BY SEA TO LUANDA AND BERTHED IN CRAMPED BUT FAIR CONDITIONS AT THE FORMER PARACHUTE BASE AT BELAS (NEAR THE RESIDENCE OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER). WE ARE SUBMITTING REPORTS ON THE REFUGEES BY SEPTELS. THE PARACHUTISTS HAVE MOVED FROM THOSE BARRACKS TO THE AIR FORCE BASES NEXT TO LUANDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. IN ALL FAIRNESS TO THEM, THEY STILL LOOK REASONABLY GOOD, AND ALONG WITH THE SMALL COMMANDO UNIT IN LUANDA, DO NOT DESERVE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DESCRIPTION IN PARA 6 OF LUANDA 1473.

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